Juvenile Delinquency - 1926.

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# NO SCHOOL FOR NEGRO BOYS

## Delinquents Form Real Problem

How to redeem negro delinquent boys has become a serious problem in Harris County, it was declared Friday by Probation Officer J. W. Mills. The county has schools for delinquent white girls, white boys and negro girls but no place to put colored boys.

Theoretically, the negro boys should be sent to the state school at Gatesville, but the state institution is crowded and the county has been notified that no more boys should be sent there.

The last state legislature sought to remedy conditions by naming the Ferguson Farm a place to send delinquent boys. However, the legislature forgot to appropriate money to remodel the buildings, Mills said, and the structures cannot, in their present condition, be used for boys.

The situation has tied the hands of probation officers, Mills said.

Harris county is no exception in the matter of inadequate facilities for delinquents, he said. The county has provided for all other classes except negro boys, while most counties in Texas have no schools of any kind for delinquents.

RALEIGH N. C. NEWS OBSERVER
MARCH 14, 1926

# WOMEN DISCUSS NEGRO PROBLEMS

## Founder of School For Delinquent Negro Girls Tells History of School

## SAYS GIRLS UPHILL FIGHT FOR DECENCY

### Pledge Nearly $1,000,000 For Work During Coming Year; Convention Visits Duke University; Consecration Services This Morning at Edenton Street Church

The story of the negro woman's fight for decency against the odds of custom ignorance and environment was simply but powerfully portrayed by Mrs. Janie Porter Barrett, president of the Federation of Colored Woman's Clubs of Virginia, before the annual convention of the Woman's Missionary Council yesterday morning at the Edenton Street Methodist Church.

Race relations, problems and inter racial co-operation were discussed yesterday morning and reports from the conference were supplemented by a brief talk by Mrs. Maude Henderson, of Atlanta, chairman of the commission on inter-racial co-operation, an interdenominational body, and Mrs. Barrett. Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Mt. Airy and Miss Estelle Haskins reported for the council commission on race relations.

Another feature of the morning service was the pledge service conducted by Mrs. Ina Davis Fulton when nearly $1,000,000 was pledged for the coming year. Last year $951,489 was pledged by the states and $947,890.77 was paid. This year the pledges were increased in some cases, and several states remain to be heard from yet, having no representatives at the meeting. North Carolina's pledge was $51,700.

The convention visited Duke University this afternoon, and had lunch at the Duke Hotel, Durham. This morning the annual sermon and consecration of deaconesses will be conducted by Bishop Edwin D. Monzon, and tonight at the Edenton Street Methodist Church, Dr. Charles Reid Zahniser, of Pittsburgh, will preach.

Beginning with the origin of the movement 32 years ago, Mrs. Barrett told of the efforts of negro women to instill into the minds of the negro girls a sense of responsibility. She also told of the work the Federation of Negro Woman's Clubs in Virginia has done to solve the problem of the delinquent colored girl by building and equipping a home for them which is now supported by a small appropriation from the Virginia Legislature.

**Women Are "Common Prey."**

"When you remember that the negro woman has been the common prey of all, that it has been no offense to society or to the law to exploit her, her progress has been nothing short of wonderful," she declared. "Even when we have taken girls into the school and helped them, when they are dismissed they often have to go back into their old environment and fight their old battles again."

As president of an institution which is held in highest esteem by the State Legislature of Virginia, the Governor, other high officials and the leading white people of the State, Mrs. Barrett, has rendered a service to her race and her country, said to be unique in the history of the day. The Virginia Industrial Schoo of which Mrs. Barrett is president, is a by-product of Hampton Institute, Virginia, of which school Mrs. Barrett is a graduate and where she conceived the idea of doing something for the girls of her race.

"The interest of the white women of Virginia in the school was enlisted," she said, "and a board of white and colored men and women was organized, the first of its kind in the United States it is said. The General Assembly of Virginia learned of the school and now each year the State appropriated funds for its support. Colored and white friends of the institution in the North and in the South, have helped and when the institution was deeded to the State of Virginia, the plant was valued at $75,000 and accommodated ninety girls. The school takes delinquent colored girls, trains them to do useful work in addition to giving them a full course of instruction along educational lines.

Mrs. Sue Britt, of Virginia, commented on the wonderful work this school is doing, following Mrs. Barrett's talk.

**North Carolina Leads.**

North Carolina leads all other Southern States in offering education to her negro population, Mrs. Henderson stated, in her talk which was devoted largely to the education of the negro. As a deterrent to mob violence and crime, she thought it had a great value.

The council commission on co-operation is working along three lines, according to the report made by Mrs. Newell and Miss Haskins. They are: A better knowledge on the part of the white woman of the achievements and the inherent possibilities of the negro race, thereby forming a sure basis for friendly contract; a knowledge of conditions hindering progress and happiness of the negro home; and a definite conviction of their responsibility as a more advantaged race for the unpardonable conditions and injustices which surround the negro race, and a definite program for the discharge of that responsibility.

Declaring that the life of Jesus gives one a distinct impression of power, Dr. J. B. Matthews, professor of missions, Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., discussed the different forms of power employed by Jesus in building His Kingdom, when He conducted the third of the series of noonday Bible studies yesterday.

"Christianity is a form of power," he said. "Paul was not ashamed to preach the Gospel in Rome which typified imperial might because he was conscious of handling power—"the power of God unto salvation." Jesus' life gives us the distinct impression of power.

"But when he was considering the methods to be used in founding his kingdom there was an intense struggle that took place in his soul over the forms of power available for his purpose. Economic power is the supreme power to many, and if Jesus had chosen to build a "kingdom of bread," His power would have been great over many lives. Sensationalism is a form of power that many leaders have employed in winning the masses and Jesus considered its desirability. Imperial might such as that of Alexander and the Caesars was known to him, and the people expected that their Messiah would posses it. But Jesus declined these forms of power, and chose others. History has vindicated his choice."

LOUISE PRIDGEON

# MY SCRAP BOOK OF DOERS

## Cleveland, Ohio, Offers Us the Story of Another Portia—Miss Louise J. Pridgeon

By NETTIE GEORGE SPEEDY

[NOTE—This is the 46th of a series of articles that I will publish concerning the work of men and women of the Race. Please help me to acquaint others of your achievements by sending me your photo—or one of a friend or neighbor—accompanied by a sketch of the accomplishments of the person. A picture must be mailed with every manuscript. Send all matter to Mrs. Nettie George Speedy, Chicago Defender, Chicago, Ill.]

WHEN thinking or speaking of the progress of our women in the public life of Cleveland we couple the word pioneer with the name of Louise J. Pridgeon.

A few years ago after completing a course at Western Reserve university in social science her attention was drawn to the women and girls of Color who were haled into the courts of justice, sometimes justly and quite as often unjustly, and for a year she volunteered her services, giving full time to the work of investigation, thereby assisting the judges to arrive at a fair and just disposition of the cases of these unfortunates.

The courts soon realized the valuable service that was being rendered by Miss Pridgeon and she was placed on a salary, being the first probation officer of our Race in the municipal courts of Cleveland.

She continued this work for several years and during this time worked with both white and Colored girls. To supplement this work a detention home was provided for the emporary housing of court cases while investigations were being made. In this home white and Colored were accepted on an equal ting.

However, discrimination began to crop out and when the head of the work was taken to task Miss Pridgeon was told that "the white and Colored could not remain in the same house, but the board had appropriated a sufficient sum of money to open a home for Colored girls."

Miss Pridgeon, whose principles and ideals were higher than a salary, refused to be a party to a Jim Crow institution in a city where tradition was equality between the races in all things civic and political, and made a heroic sacrifice.

She then entered the law department of the Baldwin-Wallace university and completed a course in law and in 1923 was admitted to the bar of the state of Ohio. Attorney Pridgeon opened an office and was the first Race woman to engage in the active practice of law in Cleveland. She is a part of the firm of Glenn, George, Frey & Pridgeon, with a suite of offices in the Erie building.

She stands high in the respect of the judiciary and her fellow attorneys of Cuyahoga county and Cleveland. She is a member of the Cleveland Bar association, secretary and treasurer of the Harlan club, composed of all Race lawyers in Cleveland, is a member of the board of directors of the Republican Women's league of Cuyahoga county and Cleveland.

During the last presidential campaign she was made director of the work among Race women in Cuyahoga county by Miss Hallie Q. Brown, national director, and member of the Women's City club and member of the interracial committee of the Women's Council for the Promotion of Peace.

## ...L FEEBLE-MINDED SCHOOL.

...o a number of well known men and women ...d on the importance of a school for backward ...children. It was pointed out that while there is one—...e than one—school for **White** children, there is absolutely ...is... for **Colored** feeble-minded children. It was stated that the mother of a Colored feeble-minded child received $75 a year from the State for taking care of her backward child. Every fair minded person knows that is inadequate and even if a larger sum was granted that would not be equal to the services of a school. It was pointed out tha tmany feeble-minded children could be cured and made worthwhile members of society if taken to an efficient institution early in life.

Mrs. Whedbee, who certainly is in a position to know, declared that the greatest percentage of crime and criminals could be traced to backward and feeble-minded children.

All of which is to say a school for Colored feeble-minded children is a necessity of the greatest importance. That Kentucky has none is a disgrace to Kentucky and shows this state has been direlect in its duty to its Colored citizens.

Now comes a bond issue to raise five million dollars for he Board of Charities and Penal Institutions to use in the rebuilding and the new building of these institutions.

What Colored citizens want to know is where they come in.

Does this issue make provisions for Colored feeble-minded children? If not, why not?

Can Colored people be fairly expected to support this, or any other bond issue, tha tmakes no provisions for them? Laws and customs make segregation in various institutions obligatory. **We yield to that pressure**—being in the minority and the majority of that minority being ignorant, indifferent and not knowing what it is all about. We yield. But since **There Must Be Segregation,** at least give us our share.

We make no threats, but unless the Negro is included in this program, unless provisions are made for a school for Colored feeble-minded and backward children, there will be made a hard fight to defeat the bond issue. And the easiest thing in the world is to get people—white and black—to vote "No" on a bond issue.

## NEARLY $1500 FOR DELINQUENT HOME RAISED BY WOMEN

Through the Phyllis Wheatley Club, the Home for Delinquent Girls is assured as nearly $1500 has been raised for that purpose, viz:

Mrs. P. H. V. Dejoie, $242; Mrs. D. J. Guidry, $227; Mrs. E. G. Denson, $192; Mrs. L. Gaines, $152; Mrs. M. D. Davis, $144; Mrs. S. A. Cotton, $84.50; Mrs. M. A. Lomax, $84; Mrs. F. S. Daniels, $75.50; Mrs. R. A. Hall, $56.91; Mrs. E. B. Tyler, $42.10; Mrs. E. Halstead, $32; Mrs. T. Durnford, $31.25; Mrs. V. Smiley, $31; Mrs. N. Cornish, $12; Mrs. L. Jones, $5; Mrs. B. Spencer (personal donation), $10; Young Men's Twenty Club, $17; Dr. Perrino, $26. Total, $1,495.14.

We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed to this worthy cause, through the authorized solicitors of Phyllis Wheatley Club, whose untiring efforts have brought us to a realization of the fruits of our labors. Under the capable leadership of Mrs. E. G. Denson, our membership has grown from a mere handful to a representative organization of women, whose self-reliance has placed us in the front rank as a civic organization in the community. There are, no doubt, some among us who do not know of this project and would desire to contribute; all such contributions will be gladly received and public acknowledgment made of same.

Mrs. E. G. Denson, president; Mrs. P. H. V. Dejoie, vice president; Miss G. Farrow, treasurer; Mrs. D. J. Guidry, financial secretary; Mrs. E. D. Shaw, recording secretary.

## STUDY OF HARLEM CHILD DELINQUENCY STARTED

### To Be Conducted by Miss Clarissa Scott, Daughter of Dr. Emmett J. Scott of Howard University, and Special Joint Committee.

A study of delinquency and dependency among colored children in New York City has been initiated by a special group representing practically all local agencies interested in child care and known as the Joint Committee for the Study of Negro Child Delinquency.

The membership of this committee includes Dr. [illegible] Emerson, Miss Rachel Atwell, Eugene Kinckle Jones, Miss Elizabeth Murray, Walter Pettit, Miss M. P. Roberts, James H. Hubert, John E. Nail, Graham R. Taylor, Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes, Robert Bagg, Mrs. Elise Johnson McDougald, Mrs. Lyle Carter, Mrs. Daisy Reed, Dr. L. V. Anderson and about thirty others of like representativeness.

The study was undertaken as a result of the suggestion of judges in the Children's Court who feel the inadequacy of institutional care for colored children. It will be conducted by Miss Clarissa Scott, a Wellesley graduate and for three years a teacher in the public schools of Washington, D. C. Associated with the committee on this study are the Women's City Club and the Research Department of the National Urban League, whose director, Charles S. Johnson, is chairman of the special advisory group on the study made up of six members selected from the Joint Committee.

The study will include a comprehensive survey of Children's Court cases and cases handled by child welfare agencies, an inquiry into environmental circumstances of a limited number of children, and full measurement of existing institutional provisions. Headquarters of the study will be 127 East 23rd street.

According to a preliminary bulletin recently issued by the Department of Commerce the percentage of colored among juvenile delinquents, ten to seventeen years of age admitted to institutions was considerably lower in 1923 than in 1910. Likewise, the number of colored juvenile delinquents admitted to institutions per 100,000 of the colored population of the same age was strikingly lower in 1923 than in 1910. The ratio for white delinquents, however, was practically the the same in 1923 as in 1910.

## FRANK CALLEN GETS COURSE AT COLUMBIA

### First Time a Negro is So Recognized

Recognizing, for the first time the work of colored probation officers the Boys' Club Federation, international has awarded to Frank Callen, of Chatham Juvenile Court, a scholarship to Columbia University for six weeks of intensive training in boys work. He left last Saturday night in order to be on hand to attend the first class Monday morning.

Frank Callen, who has been with the juvenile court here in his present capacity almost as long as the office has existed, is known as one of the outstanding colored men in the South in his line of endeavor. His obtaining this scholarship is the first time any colored man has been so recognized. Two other colored men, whose work is of a similar nature, have been also given scholarships this year. The organization awarding this scholarship is now three years old and is considered the most outstanding one of its kind in the world today.

The work he will study in these six weeks will deal pirmarily with the theoretical and practical handling of delinquent boys by corrective and preventative methods.—(Savannah Morning News.)

COLUMBIA, S. C.

Record

DEC 23 1926

## WANT STATE HOME FOR NEGRO GIRLS

### Fairwold Trustees Meet Thursday--Ask Legislature to Act

Due to the present lack of adequate quarters and to a complete absence of any form of state support, the board of trustees of the Fairwold Industrial school for colored girls decided at a meeting held Thursday morning at the offices of the state board of public welfare that its only course would be to parole as many of the girls now housed in the home as possible until some definite steps were taken by the legislature to care for delinquent colored girls.

Since the burning of the home at Fairwold last Monday, the 18 inmates of the home have been quartered in St. Mary's Mission, property of the Episcopal church which was offered to the management of the home in its emergency by Bishop Kirkman G. Finlay, but this arrangement has been found to be inadequate, and the trustees decided to have the public board of welfare examine all the girls who are now cared for at the school with a view to the discharge of all that can possibly be released.

The Fairwold school was established some years ago and has since been maintained by the Colored Women's Federation of South Carolina, the president of which is also the chairman of the board of trustees: Marion B. Wilkinson, wife, of Dr. R. S. Wilkinson, president of the State Colored school at Orangeburg. The colored women have supported the school since they erected the building, and they are now at loss to know what steps to take to provide for new quarters.

It was also decided at the board meeting that the judges and magistrates of the county courts be notified that no more candidates for the school can now be received until further provision is made for their accommodation, and that their assistance is solicited in the efforts of the board to have a state institution established to fill the necessity which has heretofore been met by the colored institution.

The state now maintains and operates institutions for the care of recalcitrant white boys and girls, and for negro boys, but the organization falls short so far as any provision whatsoever for colored girls is cnerned, according to members of the board.

Since the burning of the home, it will be impossible, according to the white people have been very generous in their gifts of clothing, present conditions.

Killings-1926

See Also: Agriculture: Labor Conditions. (Peonage)
Crime
Lynchings
Race Relations.